



Rare Animals of Louisiana



Freckled Darter

Percina lenticula

Rarity Rank: S1/ G2

Identification:

- The largest of darters; olive and brown coloring in a distinctive pattern that resembles marbling
- Spots on both dorsal fins, 2nd spot is larger.
- Largest measured to be 8 inches.



Taxonomic comments: No recognized subspecies

Habitat: Fastest and deepest parts of main river channels with substrate made of uneven bedrock, pools, and drop-offs.

Food habits: Invertivore

Reproduction: Freckled darter eggs are fertilized externally.

Threats:

- Rare throughout its range.
- Habitat disturbance primarily attributed to dam construction
- Pollution from wastewater treatment, industrial run-off and mining discharge
- Stream channelization and siltation from extensive clear-cutting in nearby habitat.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones.
- Prevent negative changes to water quality.

U. S. Range: AL, GA, LA, MS

References:

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